Uranium Reserves in Himachal Pradesh

†2515. SHRI JANARDAN DWIVEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an indication of uranium reserve in Jakhuni village of Kangra district in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government for its confirmation; and

(c) by when it would be confirmed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Ground and Hydrogeochemical surveys have indicated low to medium order uranium anomalies at Maira about 2 Km. North of the Jakhuni in Kangra District, Himachal Pradesh.

(b) Necessary tests to probe the sub-surface uranium mineralisation are in progress.

(c) To establish the uranium deposit about 5 to 8 years of time is required depending upon the geological complexity/nature of uranium mineralisation.

Investment by CIL in foreign countries

†2516. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coal India Limited has taken a decision to make investment in the coal mining in some foreign countries;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and the names of the countries the proposals of which are still under consideration for making investment in the coal mining;

(c) the maximum amount proposed to be invested therein; and

(d) the reasons for giving priority to the foreign mining instead of domestic mining?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Coal India Limited (CIL) has taken initiatives to pursue overseas opportunities in coking coal and low ash thermal coal, both of which have limited domestic reserves that can be techno-commercially expoited. The initiative is at a very nascent stage. The possible destination countries are Australia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Indonesia, Russia etc.

(c) The investment requirements have not been finalized.

(d) There is scarcity of techno-commercially exploitable reserves of coking and low ash thermal coal. CIL has envisaged to invest in foreign coal opportunities to bridge the demand-supply gap and to enhace the energy security of the nation.

Gevra Opencast expansion project

2517. SHRI RAASHID ALVI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the Gevra Opencast expansion project of the South Eastern Coalfields Limited;

(b) if so, whether the total capital investment is of Rs. 1,667.55 crores;

(c) if so, whether the completion cost would be Rs. 1,897.80 crores;

(d) the total production of tonnes of coal to be purchased from this project;

(e) the period of completion of this project;

(f) to what extent, it would raise coal output; and

(g) the States where the coal would be supplied from this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The total production of coal from Gevra Opencast Expansion Project will be 25 million tonnes per annum.

(e) The project is scheduled to be completed in the year 2009-10.

(f) The output as per expansion project would be 25 Mt. per annum.